



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**UCAN, in partnership with the United Church of Christ, launches online HIV awareness and prevention education curriculum for all ages**

Cleveland, OH

During the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, UCAN and the United Church of Christ have launched the UCC's HIV awareness and prevention education curriculum online. [Affirming Persons, Saving Lives](#) is an answer to prayer for many faith communities looking for a resource that deals forthrightly with the many complex issues that must be addressed to stop HIV and save lives.

Education is a life long journey and the values that under gird effective HIV prevention efforts can and must be taught from the early ages through adults. *Affirming Persons-Saving Lives* does that in appropriate ways for each age group. It nurtures self worth, encourages responsibility, calls people to engage compassionately and works for justice. It addresses sensitive issues in non-judgmental ways, providing information important to making healthy decisions.

Last July, President Obama released the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The vision for this strategy is that "The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination." This has been the vision of the United Church of Christ for the world since beginning of the epidemic.

Here in the Cleveland area, where there are about 4,200 people living with HIV; and across this country, where an estimated 1,2 million people living with HIV; and around the world, where an estimated 33-40 million people are living with HIV, there is a lot to do if we are to effectively stop this disease and care for those affected.

An important role of the faith community is its capacity to educate. It surely is not the only role, but it education is a vital one. With HIV there is a lot to know. We all need to learn about this disease, we need to know our status and we need to know how we can make a difference. *Affirming Persons-Saving Lives* is a significant educational tool that can help houses of worship and community organizations with those tasks.

The nine books that make up the learning series are now available in PDF form on the web. The *Affirming Persons-Saving Lives* learning series may be downloaded FREE at: [www.ucc.org/apsl](http://www.ucc.org/apsl).

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